

**Notes from BLM (HQ/MT/WY) WDEQ & EPA R8 / NRC Coordination Teleconference**

**Jun 8, 2016; 8-9:30 MDT (10-11:30 EDT)**

**Bridge Line: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**

**NRC Projects** (license applications received) – Alan Bjornsen (NRC)

Ross (Strata) – Crook County, WY

License has been issued. Safety is reviewing an amendment application. Environmental is working on Section 106 consultation with tribes.

[ [HYPERLINK "http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/materials/uranium/licensed-facilities/ross.html"](http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/materials/uranium/licensed-facilities/ross.html) ]

Kendrick (Strata) – Crook County, WY

Environmental RAIs were issued in late May. Environmental conducted a site visit in April.

[ [HYPERLINK "http://www.nrc.gov/materials/uranium-recovery/license-apps/kendrick.html"](http://www.nrc.gov/materials/uranium-recovery/license-apps/kendrick.html) ]

Dewey-Burdock (Powertech) – Fall River County, SD

Applicant is waiting for an EPA decision on their permit; EPA continuing with consultation efforts; once EPA actions are complete, South Dakota hearing process will commence. A meeting was recently held with the Oglala Sioux Tribe – Section 106 consultation is still being conducted

[ [HYPERLINK "http://www.nrc.gov/materials/uranium-recovery/license-apps/dewey-burdock.html"](http://www.nrc.gov/materials/uranium-recovery/license-apps/dewey-burdock.html) ]

Reno Creek (AUC. LLC) – Campbell County, WY

Staff is completing the draft Supplemental EIS (NUREG-1910, Supplement 6) and plans to publish in early July. A 45-day comment period will be noticed in the Federal Register.

[ [HYPERLINK "http://www.nrc.gov/materials/uranium-recovery/license-apps/reno-creek.html"](http://www.nrc.gov/materials/uranium-recovery/license-apps/reno-creek.html) ]

Smith Ranch/Highland (Cameco [PRI]) – Converse County, WY

Staff completed its acceptance review of Cameco's responses to NRC's RAIs, and issued its conclusions in a May 2, 2016 letter, stating that 27 of the 115 RAI responses were deemed inadequate. Staff has proposed a public meeting with Cameco to discuss resolution of the 27 RAIs. Staff is also proceeding with its EA, and re-initiated the NHPA Section 106 consultation process with letters on May 16, 2016 to 27 tribes.

[ [HYPERLINK "http://www.nrc.gov/materials/uranium-recovery/license-apps/smith-ranch.html"](http://www.nrc.gov/materials/uranium-recovery/license-apps/smith-ranch.html) ]

Ludeman (uranium One) – Converse County, WY

Not much movement, either with regard to safety or environmental, due primarily to economics

[ [HYPERLINK "http://www.nrc.gov/materials/uranium-recovery/license-apps/ludeman.html"](http://www.nrc.gov/materials/uranium-recovery/license-apps/ludeman.html) ]

Jane Dough (Uranerz) – Johnson and Campbell Counties, WY

Response to RAIs were received and are being reviewed. A webinar on Section 106 was recently held

[ [HYPERLINK "http://www.nrc.gov/materials/uranium-recovery/license-apps/jane-dough.html"](http://www.nrc.gov/materials/uranium-recovery/license-apps/jane-dough.html) ]

Lost Creek Expansions (UR-Energy) – Sweetwater County, WY

BLM has completed preliminary versions of Chapters 1 and 2 of the draft EIS for the license amendment, including the KM and East expansion. In March, NRC initiated an acceptance review to determine if amendment request is acceptable for detailed technical review. In May, NRC informed the licensee that deficiencies relating to the characterization and performance of the confining unit (K shale) that separates the proposed KM production zone from the underlying aquifer, prevented NRC staff from accepting the amendment application for detailed technical review.

[ [HYPERLINK "http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/materials/uranium/licensed-facilities/lost-creek.html"](http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/materials/uranium/licensed-facilities/lost-creek.html) ]

Sweetwater [conventional] Mill (Kennecott) – Sweetwater County, WY

RAI responses for both safety and environmental were received and are being reviewed. Kennecott is requesting standby conditions for the next five years.

[ [HYPERLINK "http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/materials/uranium/licensed-facilities/sweetwater.html"](http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/materials/uranium/licensed-facilities/sweetwater.html) ]

**NRC Projects** (license applications expected w/in 3-6 mo.) – Alan Bjornsen (NRC)

Shirley Basin (UR-Energy) – Carbon County, WY

Application expected later, rather than sooner

Brown Ranch (Cameco) – Campbell County, WY

Cameco has laid off personnel. An application is anticipated toward the end of the year.

Others:

None

**3809 Plans of Operations** (pending with BLM in WY and SD) – George Varhalmi (BLM)

Gas Hills (Cameco); Lander Field Office

No progress, BLM waiting on Cameco to provide proposed Section 106 mitigation measures.

[ HYPERLINK "<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/gashills.html>" ]

Nichols & Hank; Buffalo Field Office

Nichols is operating; Hank has not broken ground

[ HYPERLINK "<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/bfo/nichols-ranch.html>" ]

Lost Creek; Rawlins Field Office

Met with DEQ regarding the plugging of holes in the eastern expansion area. Contractor (WWC) prepared preliminary drafts of Chapters 1 & 2 of the EIS for review by Cooperators. Project has many uncertainties, and BLM wants to schedule another Cooperating Agency meeting.

[ HYPERLINK "<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/lostcreek.html>" ]

Sheep Mountain; Lander Field Office

NOI for the DEIS is currently being reviewed by the State and Washington Offices. BLM expects to publish in October.

[ HYPERLINK "<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/sheepmtn.html>" ]

Ross; Newcastle Field Office

Nothing new.

[ HYPERLINK "[http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/news\\_room/2011/august/01info-ross.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/news_room/2011/august/01info-ross.html)" ]

Dewy-Burdock; Belle Fourche Field Office

Nothing new.

[ HYPERLINK "[http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/mt/blm\\_information/bps.Par.90957.File.dat/Dewey-Burdock.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/mt/blm_information/bps.Par.90957.File.dat/Dewey-Burdock.pdf)" ]

Others:

Nothing

**3809 Plans of Operation** foreseeable ISR or conventional mining filings likely with BLM in WY and SD – George Varhalmi (BLM)

Allemand-Ross; Casper Field Office

Nothing ever received

Reno Creek & Jane Dough; Buffalo Field Office

Buffalo Office is looking for project descriptions from NRC

Others:

Nothing

**WDEQ** (license applications received)

**LQD HQs-Cheyenne** – Kyle Wentland

Nothing new

**LQD District 1-Cheyenne** – Mark Rogaczewski for Robin Jones

- PT 633, Smith/Highland, recent staff downsizing has resulted in reducing overall activity with a focus of operations on mine unit restoration activity.
- Pathfinder Mine Corp., Shirley Basin Project (TFN 6 1/188) 1st round technical review comments to be to the operator this week.
- Uranium One Americas Inc., Ludeman Project (TFN 5 5/149) 2nd round responses in D1 and under review.
- No uranium exploration activity in D1

**LQD District 2 – Lander** – Mark Rogaczewski for Brian Wood (John Erickson retired in May)

- Ur Energy (Lost Creek) just went through a layoff. D2 has not received comment responses regarding the Lost Creek East Amendment or KM horizon Mine Plan Revision.
- All other uranium operations (Cameco - Gas Hills, Kennecott, and Energy Fuels - Crooks Gap) have no new activity.

**LQD District 3 – Sheridan** – Mark Rogaczewski

- Uranium One – Willow Creek – Permit 478: This mine remains in operation with no major projects on going at this time. Irigaray Expansion – This amendment application remains on hold until market conditions improve.
- Cotter Corporation – Charlie Project - Permit 489: Cotter Corporation has contacted the LQD D3 office to discuss process and procedures to submit a

permit revision to initiate in situ mining operations. The revision application is expected in late summer – fall of 2016.

- Cameco Resources – Ruth Project – Permit 631: No activity at this time.
- Cameco Resources – North Butte – Permit 632: This mine is operational in two mine units. The Brown Ranch Amendment was submitted in July 2015. The first round technical review was sent by LQD D3 on March 4, 2016. Cameco has submitted materials to LQD to allow mining in a third mine unit. These materials are under review by LQD.
- Cameco Resources – Ruby Ranch Project – This application remains on hold until market conditions improve.
- Uranium One – Moore Ranch – Permit 777: No activity at this time.
- Uranerz – Hank-Nichols – Permit 778: This mine is in production.
- Jane Dough Amendment – This amendment application remains under review by LQD with the latest review comments sent to Uranerz on January 6, 2016. LQD D3 is waiting to receive comment responses from Uranerz. Only a few outstanding comments remain to be addressed before LQD can send this application to final public notice.
- Strata Energy – Ross Project – Permit 802: Production has been initiated in their first mine unit with pump tests being performed in preparation of installing mine unit No. 2. Strata Energy has submitted their Kendrick Amendment application. The round two technical review was sent on March 9, 2016. LQD D3 is waiting to receive comment responses from Strata Energy.
- LQD D3 received a Form 11 Major revision on May 24, 2016 to remove ~40 acres of BLM lands and expand the affected area boundary to include mineable roll front deposits. LQD D3 sent comments June 2, 2016. This application will be sent to public notice and comment when all LQD review comments have been adequately addressed.
- AUC, LLC – Reno Creek – Permit 824. No production at this time.

### **EPA Region 8 – Wendy Cheung**

EPA has not made a decision on the permits as we are still working through the tribal consultation process.

### **Conferences and Meetings**

The NMA Annual Workshop was held in Denver Jun 6 & 7. All presentations will be available on NMAs website next week.

### **As Time Permits (items worth mentioning for the good of the order):**

From NRC:

Bear Lodge (Rare Earth) – still suspended

From BLM:

A presentation on rare earth elements will be made in Worland (later this week?)

From DEQ:

Agreement State status – most chapters have been drafted and is before the environmental quality council. Draft guidelines will be available later this year

From EPA:

**Next Quarterly call** – Wed, Sep 14, 2016, 0800 MDT (1000 EDT)

**Attachments** – NRC Uranium Recovery Licensing Applications (under review and proposed), as of May 27, 2016:

[ HYPERLINK "<http://www.nrc.gov/materials/uranium-recovery/license-apps/ur-projects-list-public.pdf>" ]